# DISCUSSANT
# A Comparison of Ancestry and Race Data in the 2021 American Community Survey: Preliminary Findings

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# Importance of critical analyses of data, product, and process

- Thoughtful and timely issue to bring forward – FRN on Census 2030 Research and Initial OMB Proposal on Race and Ethnicity

- Continued importance of high-quality data on race and ethnicity for civil rights protection and equitable resource distribution and supports

- Triangulation of information through mixed methods: data analyses, community feedback, and engagement with diverse organizations

- Recognition of reducing burden – Census system, workforce, respondents, etc.

# Notes about Ancestry Data

- The ancestry question is open-ended, and the only current way to get published "estimates for groups such as Lebanese, Haitian, and Brazilian." **Why?**

- Some groups are more likely to respond to ancestry than race esp. West Indian ancestry. **Why?**

- How do respondents (and Census Bureau) understand the different concepts of race, ancestry, ethnicity, and nationality? How is this understood and used by the Census workforce from the field staff to programmers?

- The 2016 ACS Content Test was done at least 7 years ago and a lot has happened and wondering if some of the information would have changed.

# Considerations

- Cost vs. value – valuable and high-quality information is likely to require additional resources because the downstream effects could be more costly
  - e.g., the costs of not knowing the language supports needed for education and social services
- How are we defining race, ancestry, ethnicity, and nationality? Are we conflating concepts, and how much does this matter to the layperson? Are the different sources giving us different information?
- How can we leverage the conversations and feedback from various work such as the recent OMB FRN on SPD 15? Are there cross-cutting information that can influence our understanding & decision-making?

# Potential Areas for Inquiry

- Race and ancestry questions are being asked and probed in qualitatively different ways. Why? How much has this difference been tested?

- Is there a Hispanic and ancestry focus that's forthcoming? More importantly, is it possible to look at the intersection of **ethnicity X ancestry X race**, especially when looking at the proposed race and ethnicity combination question?

- We have an increase in multiracial respondents, and how does this data represent this group?

- Since race is being imputed, how does that impact the conclusion that race is more complete data for the majority than ancestry?

# Communication and Outreach

- What agencies and community organizations are using this data, and what is the impact of this potential change on their focus/priorities?

- Suggest mapping out current organizations who likely need more information about ancestry/national origin to advocate for specific resources and support at national and state levels, and ensuring they align with historically undercounted groups, including child advocates, Black, Asian, and Hispanic communities (as well as Afro-Latino and Afro-MENA)

- Need to provide more clear and accessible reports, as well as **time**, about the ancestry data ahead of any feedback request.